

# **ROCK CREEK** WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECT

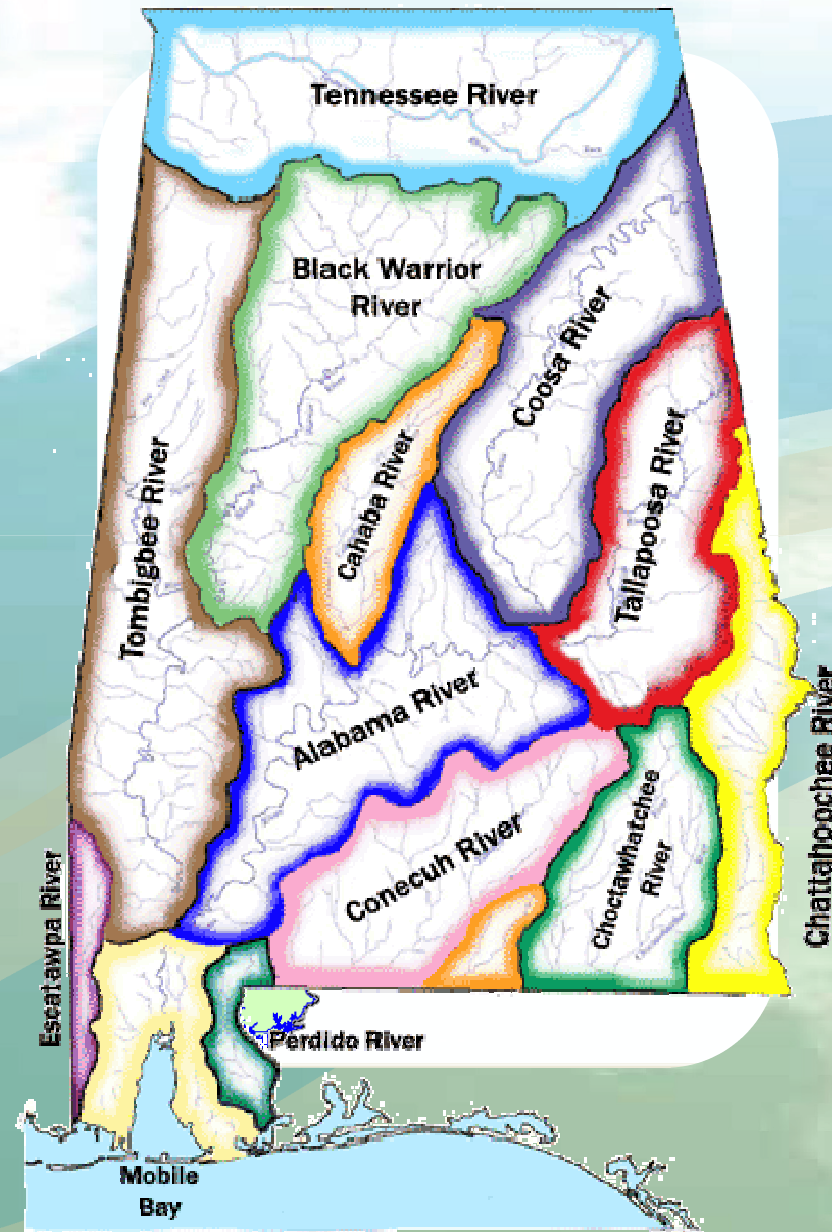
**24<sup>th</sup> Annual Nonpoint Source Conference**  
**Alabama Department of Environmental Management**  
**Montgomery, Alabama**  
**January 17, 2013**

**Mona Scruggs Dominguez, Watershed Coordinator**  
**Alabama Water Watch, Auburn University**



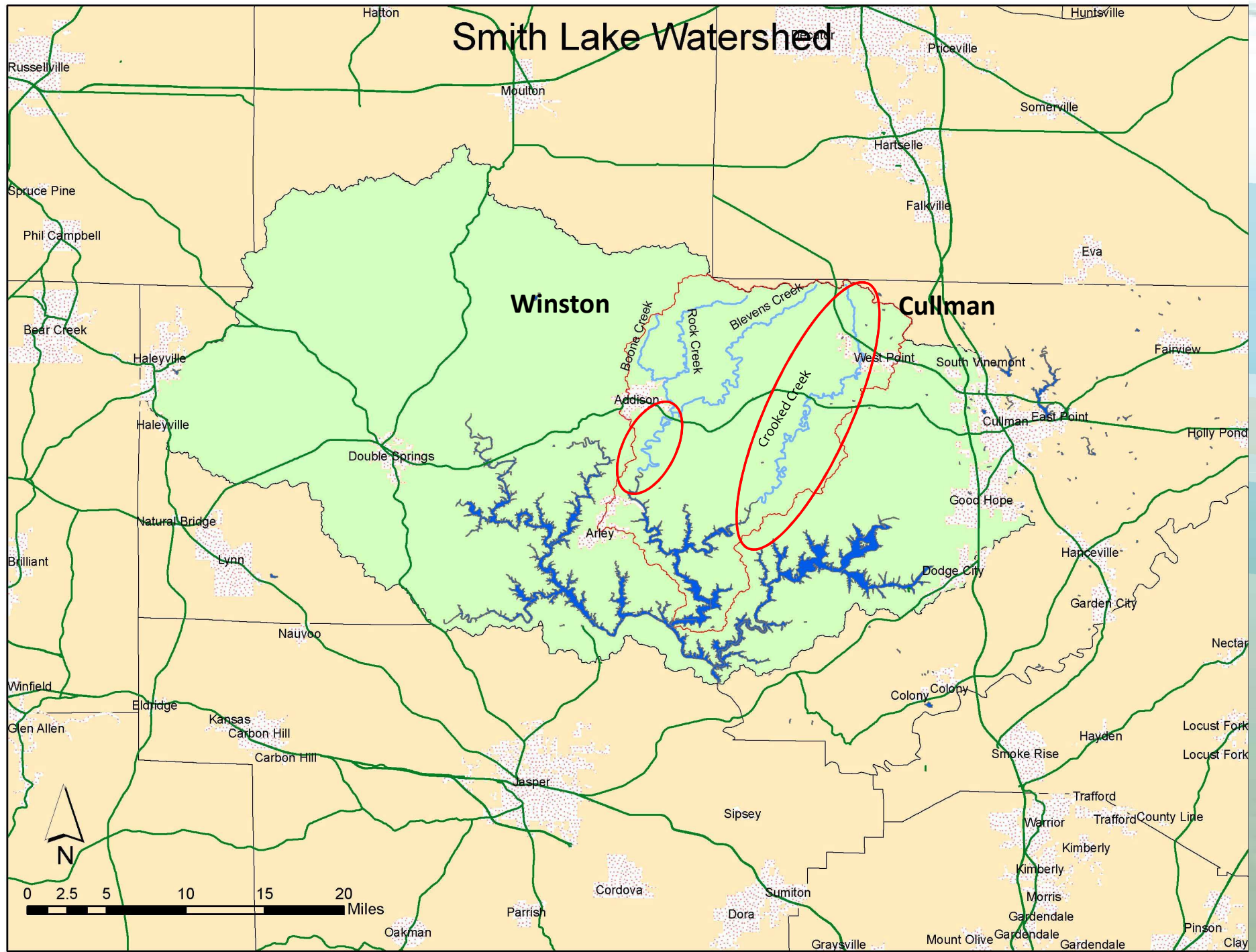
This project is funded by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management through a Clean Water Act Section 319(h) nonpoint source grant provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-Region 4.

# The Rock Creek Watershed





# Smith Lake Watershed



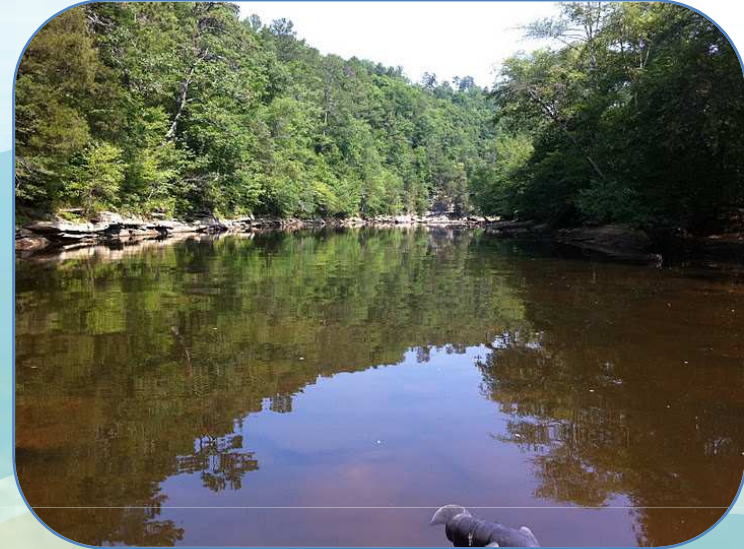


## The Rock Creek Watershed

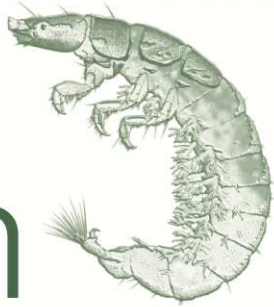




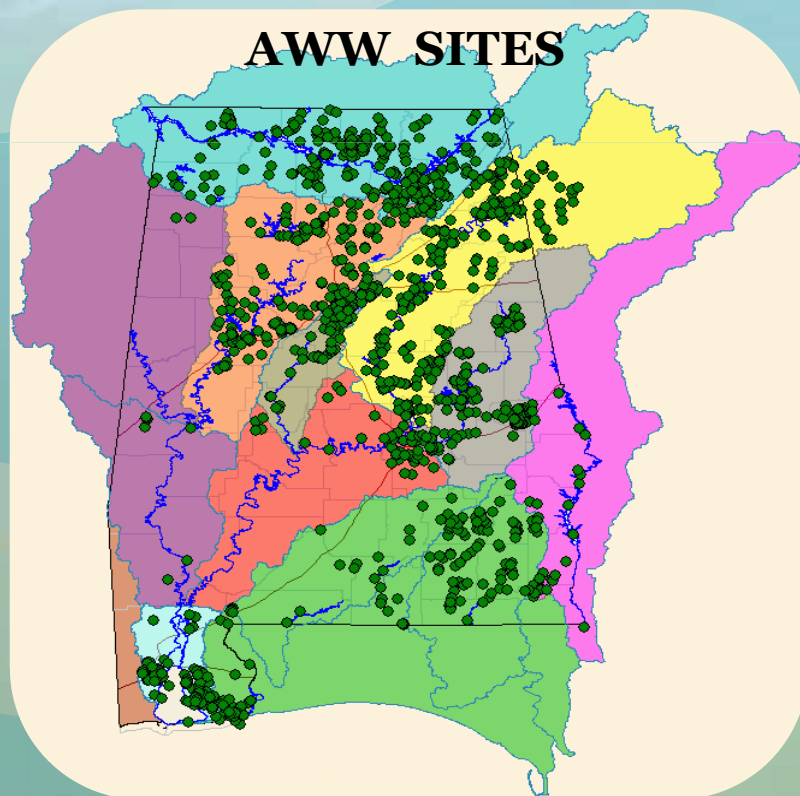
# The Rock Creek Watershed



# Alabama Water Watch



A program dedicated to  
developing Citizen Volunteer  
Water Monitoring of Alabama's  
lakes, streams and coasts.



## ~~Total Since 1993-Records~~

- 3200+ Chemistry Records
- 270 Citizen Groups
- 1200+ Bacteria Records
- 6,000 Certified Monitors
- 2,200 Sites
- 72,000 Water Quality Records
- 40 Active Citizen Trainers
- 1,600 Workshops



# Lewis Smith Lake

## 16<sup>th</sup> Annual State of the Lake Address

November 3, 2012



Alabama  
Water  
Watch



Dr. Bill Deutsch and Mona Dominguez  
Alabama Water Watch Program  
Rock Creek Watershed Management Project  
Auburn University  
[www.alabamawaterwatch.org](http://www.alabamawaterwatch.org)



## Smith Lake Watershed Groups





# Stakeholder Involvement





# Agency Partnerships





# The Rock Creek Watershed Management Plan

## Rock Creek Watershed Management Plan

ROCK CREEK STAKEHOLDER GROUP  
AND AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Prepared by

Mona Scruggs, Eric Reutebuch and William Deutsch

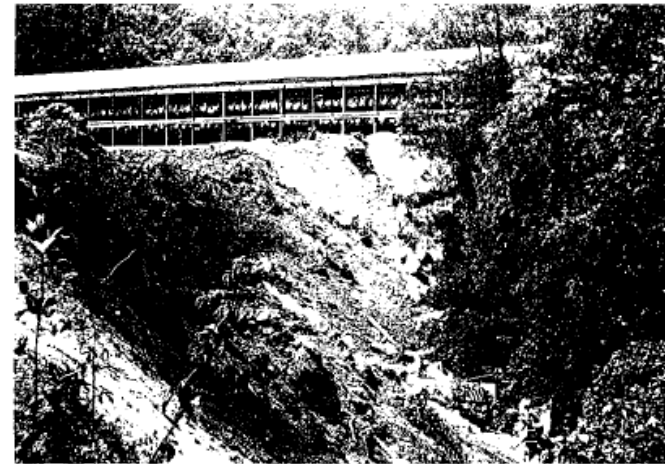
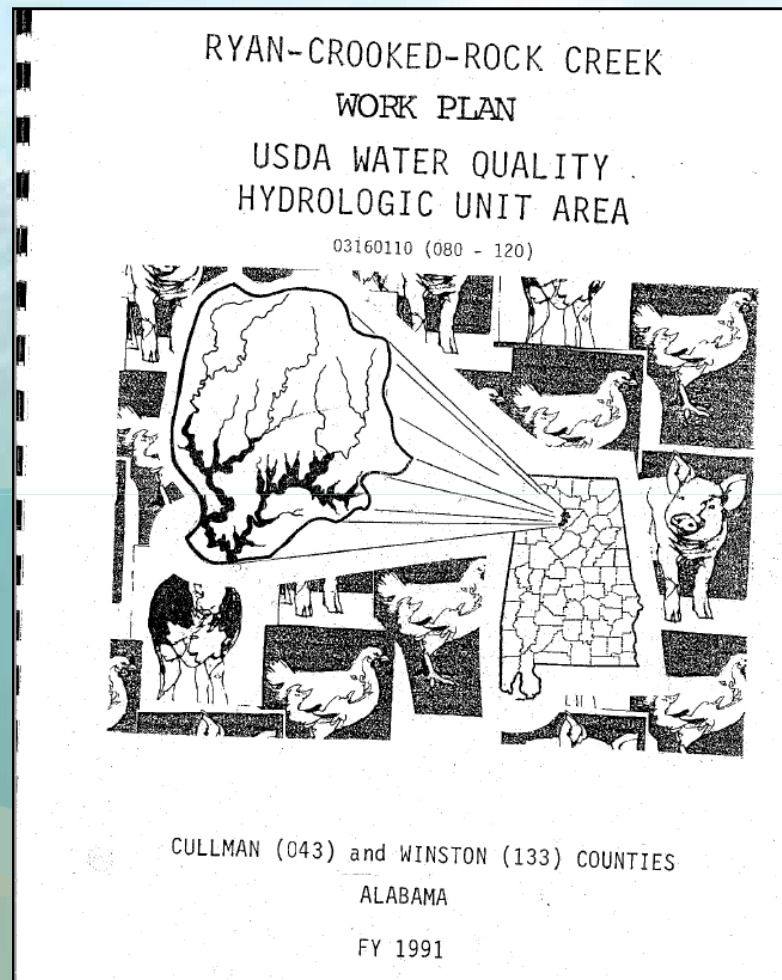
*This project was funded in part by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management  
and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, through a Clean Water Act  
Section 319(h) nonpoint source grant.*



June 2010

Project Period: March 2011 – March 2014

# Historical Agricultural Impacts in the Watershed



DEAD BROILERS THROWN IN DITCH ABOVE CREEK



CATTLE IN RYAN CREEK



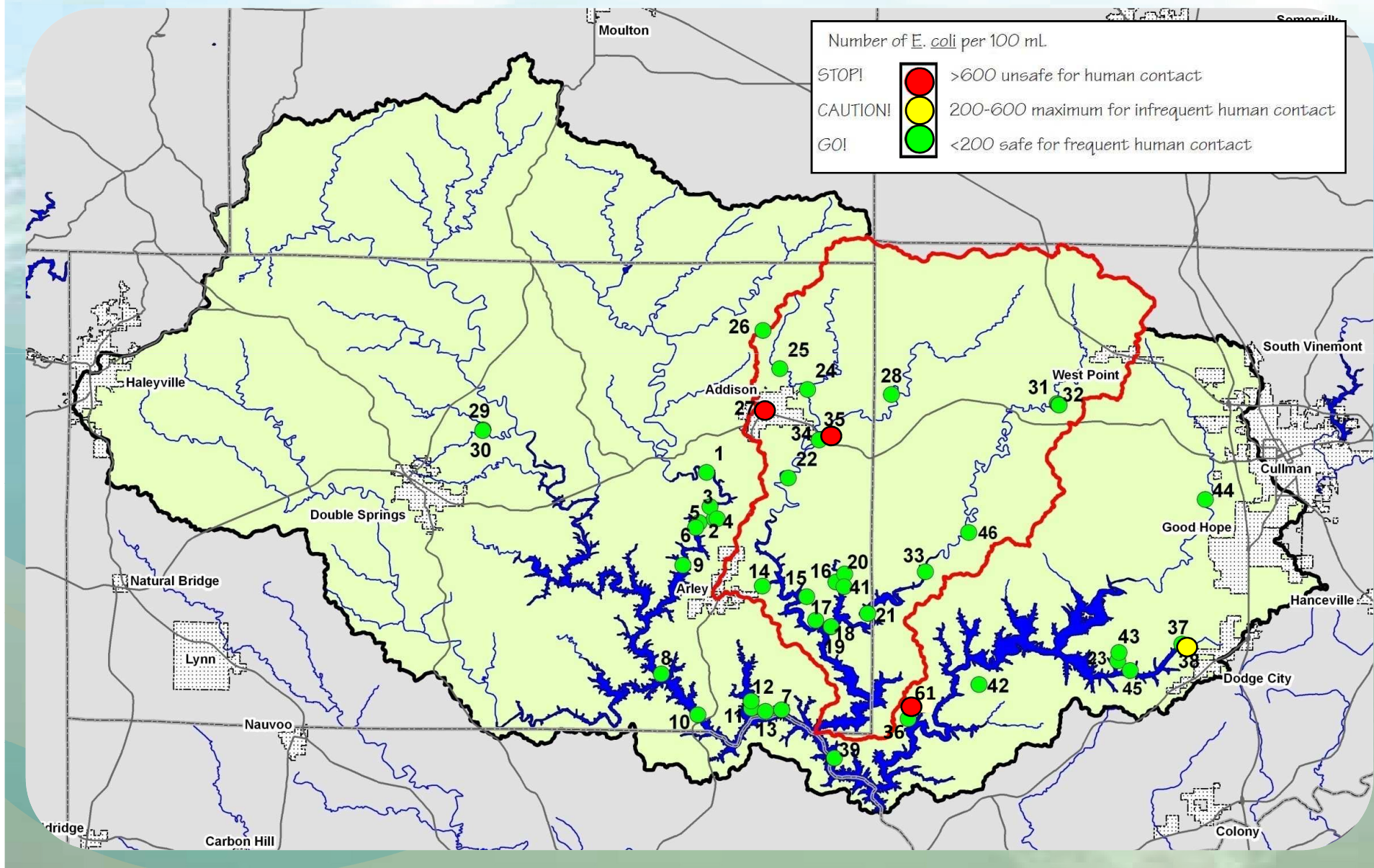
# Bacteria Blitzes



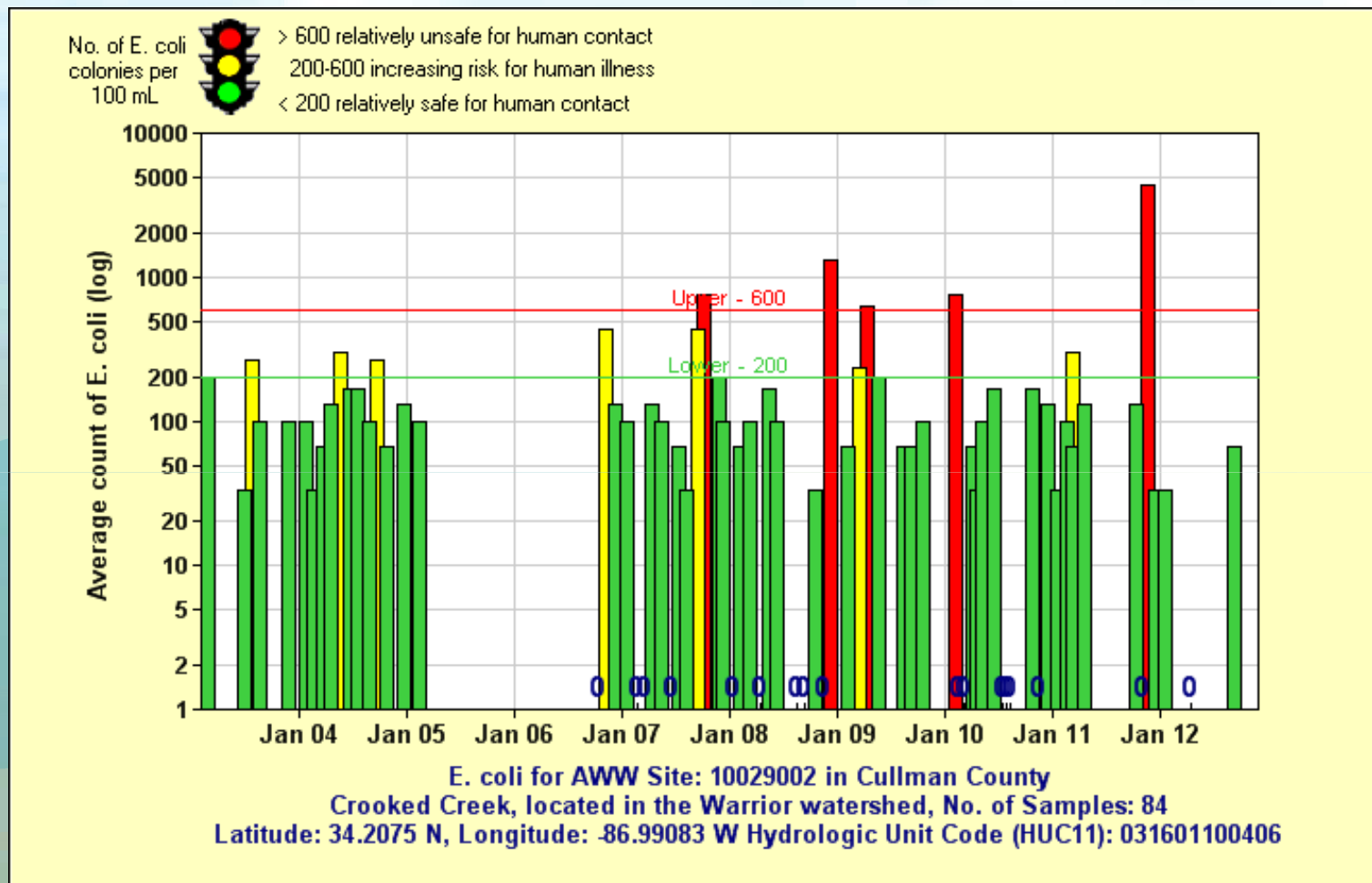


# Smith Lake Bacteriological Blitz Fall 2011

October 28, 2011

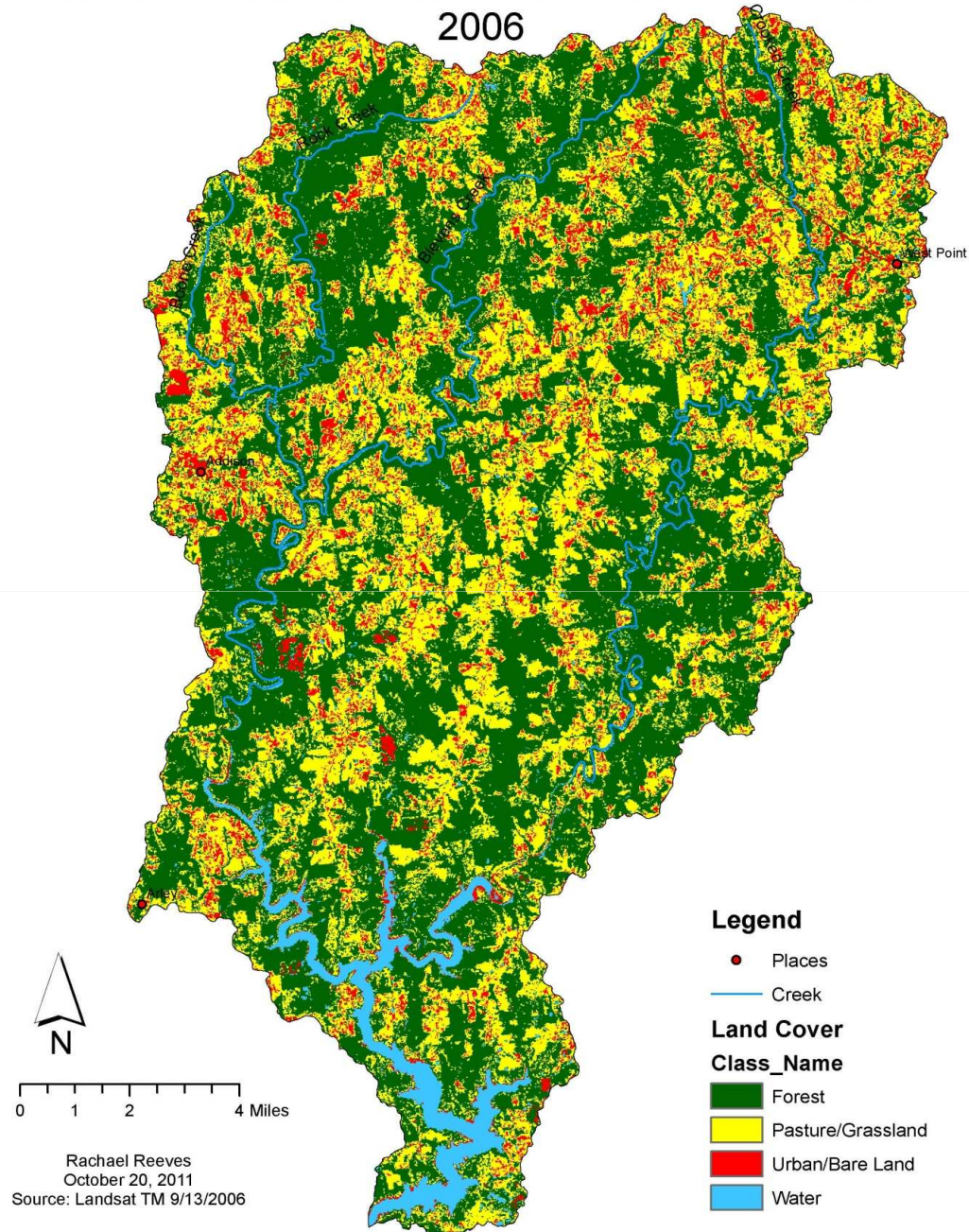






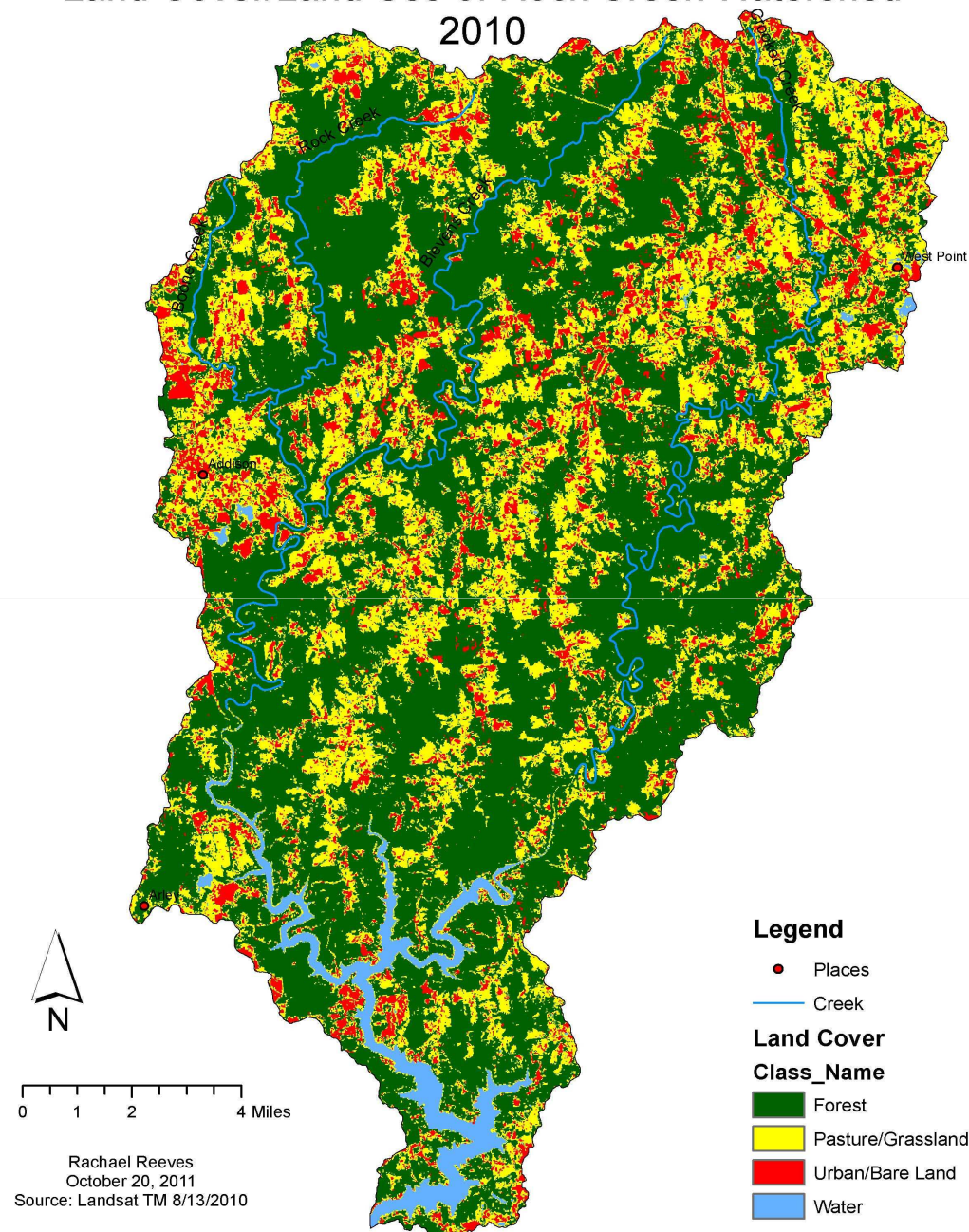
Graph generated through the AWW Water Data webtools at  
[www.alabamawaterwatch.org](http://www.alabamawaterwatch.org)

# Land Cover/Land Use of Rock Creek Watershed 2006





# Land Cover/Land Use of Rock Creek Watershed 2010





## Development in the Rock Creek Watershed





# On-the-Ground Best Management Practices



the Rock Creek Watershed in Winston and Culman Counties.





# Pathogen Issues Related to Sewage/Septic Issues





# Success in Addison!

By Chad Fell

Senior Reporter

nwanews@centurytel.net

ADDISON - A sewage problem plaguing the town of Addison for years is finally being corrected for the safety and sanitation of residents, with a \$143,942 project expanding the present system and replacing the present septic tank causing backflow problems.

The project includes installing a pumping station, 1,000 linear feet of four-inch PVC line and the attachments. The Appalachian Regional Commission funded \$115,153 or 80 percent of the project, with the town paying the 20 percent match or \$28,789, according to Lucas Blankenship, community development specialist and regional planner for the Northwest Alabama Council

See GRANT Page 3A



From left, Lucas Blankenship, with NACOLG, Addison Mayor Marsha Pigg and wastewater superintendent Charles Moore see where raw sewage has flowed into a ditch, due to an inadequate system in need of replacement.

## Grant to help...

continued from page 1

of Local Governments.

The town made application for the grant Nov. 29, 2011. "We have a lot of problems in the downtown area right here, behind the community center, behind the city hall," said Mayor Marsha Pigg.

The existing septic tank system, installed around the 1970s, has never been replaced and often overflows causing pools of wastes behind City Hall as well as backflow into a ditch behind City Hall.

This overflow was due to the current system not being able to carry the flow of wastes from so many busi-

nesses in that immediate area. Problems have also been reported at the ball fields located at the school and community center and neighboring businesses, Pigg said.

"It's been a problem a long time. It was a problem ever since the 1970s, ever since (the system) was put in," the mayor added.

Backflow of the septic tank system became so bad because the system was not designed to handle the flow from an increasing number of businesses in the area through the years, town officials said.

"We had to have these

tanks pumped. There was no where for it to go," Pigg said.

On July 12, U.S. Congressman Robert Aderholt announced the \$115,153 ARC grant. "This is great news that Addison will receive grant funding from ARC to expand sewer service in downtown Addison," Congressman Aderholt said.

"These grant funds will help retain 50 jobs in our area and make it possible for existing business to expand and open doors for new business to be established in downtown Addison," he added.

Blankenship added, "It will alleviate any overflow issues and will basically serve the entire commercial district."

Specific businesses and/or locations affected by the sewer system upgrade include the senior center, city hall, rescue squad, the Methodist church, beauty shop, Hyatt's Grocery, Subway, laundry mat and John's Barbecue, according to town officials.

"It will clean up the overflow all through town," the mayor said.

The project should begin this fall. Mayor Pigg will request a proposal for engineering, with the town then accepting bids for the company to do the work, once design specs are formulated, Blankenship said.

Once started, the project should be completed within six months, pending weather conditions.

"It's going to alleviate

any potential environmental issues and health concerns," said Blankenship. "It should attract new businesses, having more sewer (service)."

He said hopefully present businesses now will be able to expand, thanks to the better sewer flow handling a greater capability of wastes than before.

"It's been a long time coming, but we've been needing it," Pigg said.

This ARC grant was specifically geared toward job retention and job creation.

Charles Moore, wastewater superintendent, sees the need for a more adequate sewage system on a daily basis. The town cannot mow the areas of grass near where the septic tank backflow is located.

"The smell...it has a bad odor and the ditches stay full all the time," Moore said.

The new system will allow for the current backflow to be cleaned up with the new system also moving sewage toward the industrial park, he indicated.

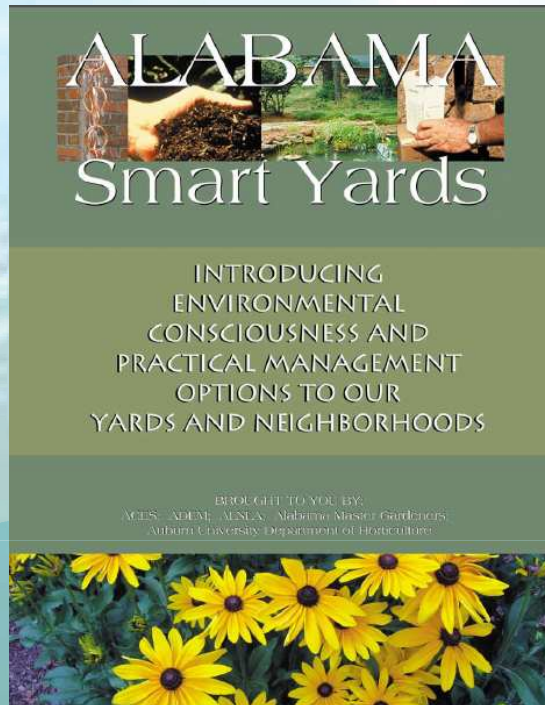
"In the hot summer time, (the waste backup) is there," added Pigg. "It never dries up. That just flows right through town."

The ARC is a United States federal-state partnership working with people of the Appalachia region to create opportunities for self-sustaining economic development and improve the quality of life.

The Commission is a partnership of 420 counties and cities.



## Smart Yards in the Rock Creek Watershed



*"There are actions we can take each day to ensure that we can boast of Smith Lake's beauty for decades to come."*





## Education and Outreach







*Crooked Creek at Clarkson Covered Bridge*

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[www.alabamawaterwatch.org/rockcreek.html](http://www.alabamawaterwatch.org/rockcreek.html)

